



Vigilant Times

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade

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St. Barbara's Day Ball 2010

By 2Lt. Johnson, Caleb

31ST ADA hosted the annual Saint Barbara's Day Ball, continuing a standing Air Defense Artillery Tradition. On the night of December 17, 2010, anyone around Lawton could spot search lights in the sky. Those lights lead Air Defenders and distinguished guest to the Fort Sill Patriot Club and the commencement of the Saint Barbara's Day Ball.

The Saint Barbara's Day Ball reinforces unit cohesion by reminding Air Defenders of our rich history going back to the Coastal Artillery, celebrating our Patron Saint, hearing about American heroes like Molly Pitcher, and raises esprit-de-corps by drinking Artillery Punch with fellow Air Defenders.

The Artillery Punch Ceremony was held to the highest standard, to keep in tradition with the Chatham Artillery Punch. The Artillery Punch ceremony began with the Chatham Artillery Association instilling Col. Garcia with a great honor, securing the original punch recipe and caldron. From there Lt. Col. Fruehwald and Command Sgt. Maj. Kogut successfully locate the "stuff" in the foothills of Georgia and everyone who attended the ball enjoyed the fruits of their labor.

Air Defenders serving around the globe recognize Saint Barbara as our Patron Saint, so it is a great honor to be inducted into her Order. The Air Defense Association inducts "those individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of competence and served the United States Army Air Defense Artillery Branch with selflessness. They

must have significantly contributed to the promotion of the Air Defense Artillery in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates, and peers alike." This year, fifteen Soldiers in the 31ST ADA BDE were welcomed into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. These include: Maj. Carlos F. Diaz, Maj. Lori Wilson, Maj. Geoffrey Adams, Capt. Joseph A. Lavallo-Rivera, Capt. Michael Hamilton, Capt. John A. Scarbrough, Capt. Keith A. Stampley, Capt. Travis Tripp, Master Sgt. Steven Ford, 1st Sgt Michael D. Davis, Sgt. 1st Class Ronald A. Wasson, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Martin, Staff Sgt. Derrick J. Lee, Staff Sgt. Nicholas W. Martinelli, and Staff Sgt. Trenton Weeks. Along with welcoming Soldiers into the Order of Saint Barbara the 31ST ADA BDE recognizes spouses who have volunteered their services and improved the Air Defense Community. This year's Molly Pitcher Awardees include: Mrs. Jennifer A. Bradley, Mrs. Denise D. Scarbrough, Mrs. Christy Tripp, and Mrs. Brandy M. Woodley.

Walking between a Patriot Launcher and Avenger in front of the Patriot Club set the theme for the night, Air Defenders proud of what they do and what they represent. Soldiers in gloves and ascot serving as escorts gave everyone who entered first class treatment. The ball was rich in tradition, military customs and courtesies, and a great way for 31ST ADA BDE Soldiers to celebrate one last time before block leave.



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Commander's Corner



To our Soldiers and Families,
I have spent the last few months talking to our Soldiers and Families and understanding what is important to them. We have accomplished many missions and have exceeded the standard every time. We have covered every aspect of our mission sets with TF 5-5 ADA CRAM completing their mission in Iraq to winning the Post Football championship. I want to take a moment and ensure that everyone understands how our successes tie into the big picture.

As the Commander, it is my number one priority to ensure the Brigade's Soldiers, Units and Families are prepared for any mission. As subordinate units are in different phases within the ARFORGEN Cycle (Reset, Train/Ready and Available), it is imperative that we all understand the focus of the cycle in which they are operating. In addition, understanding our Lines of Effort, along with their specific objectives and measures of effectiveness will ensure our Soldiers, Units and Families are postured for success.

Our 31st ADA BDE Lines of Effort are:

Force Well Being: Soldiers and Civilians are confident they are being cared for and their physical, mental/emotional, and spiritual needs are met while enjoying events, programs, and having fun in this great unit.

Warfighting: Soldiers in the 31st ADA BDE will train effectively and efficiently while maintaining a deployment mindset and displaying an eagerness to be a contributing member of this great team.

Leadership Development: Develop flexible and adaptive military leaders with the capabilities, knowledge, experience, and opportunities to successfully lead in the Contemporary Operating Environment.

Community Outreach: As a new unit to the Fort Sill area, the 31st ADA BDE will need to build close,

working relationships with other organizations on Fort Sill and with our local community. That will lead to 31st ADA BDE embedding itself into the Fort Sill Family and the Lawton/Oklahoma community.

To determine if we are accomplishing our objectives, we have implemented a comprehensive assessment plan. Each has its own specific measures of effectiveness linked back to a specific objective. Some indicators that will serve as evidence that we have been successful are:

- Increase in Soldiers reenlisting to stay at 31st ADA BDE.
- Increase in Soldiers requesting to be assigned to 31st ADA BDE.
- Families within the BDE are resilient and prepared for deployments.

- Recognized as having the best Community Outreach Program in the State of Oklahoma.

We become the Air and Missile Defense BDE of Choice for the Army.

We already have achieved some of these indicators and, with your help, we will achieve all of them.

Finally, I would like to welcome home the JTF 5-5 ADA Dragonslayers from a long deployment. I encourage you all to embrace the positive things in your life and remember to stay safe. Always ask yourself if you are doing the right thing and the rest should come with ease.

—COL. Garcia



Commander's Corner

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I am extremely proud to be part of this great team. Furthermore, I am continuously amazed by the drive, spirit and dedication our team exhibits on a daily basis.

The time in this profession continues to roll at a rapid pace. We are already one forth through the training year. HHB 31ST has produced staggering numbers (over 365 days without an alcohol/drug incident and numerous days without a safety violation/accident). I recently visited the great Soldiers of the “Lethal Strike” Battalion who continue to do a great job in the CENTCOM AOR. I have received numerous comments from senior leaders who visit theater and “VALDIATE” the great accomplishments of 3-2 ADA!

The “I Strike” Battalion continues to support the Brigade and Post in addition to receiving equipment. The Battalion has a great training plan for the fiscal year and I look forward to observing their execution.

The majority of the “Dragonslayers” have just recently returned from the AOR, and I am ecstatic these warriors will reset and spend well-deserved time with their families. The “Dragonslayers” executed the awesome responsibility of protecting the force flawlessly! Although stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, 5-5 ADA is a vital part of the 31ST ADA Brigade team.

Again, it's an honor to serve alongside of some of the greatest men and women I have encountered in 21 years of this profession. “Ready and Vigilant”!

—CSM Joseph



—Upcoming Events—

- There is another Brigade Run coming up on 11FEB and again on 11MARCH so, BE READY!!!
- There will be a training holiday 18FEB and President's Day is 21 FEB providing a Thursday through Monday four-day weekend; enjoy and BE SAFE!
- The “Women's History” Luncheon will be held 17MARCH at the Patriot Club — see your supervisor for more details!
 - Daylight Savings Time will begin 13MARCH, so, remember to set your clock's ahead one hour!
- The Brigade Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will be held 19APRIL so get your nominations in!

“One...Two...Three...Go!”

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near:” (Revelation 1:3)

Recently I was at a water park with my two-year-old grandson. I held him in my arms in front of a stairway leading to a big waterslide. But before we could go up the steps, we had to go through a wall of gushing water. He was excited...so, to make things more fun, I rocked back and forth in front of the water and I shouted: “One...Two...Three...Go!” He laughed and loved it as we burst through the water and began climbing the steps.

As a Brigade, we too are facing a big water slide. The building and moving into our new brigade complex is almost complete. We have a new Brigade Commander and Command Sergeant Major. The TAC has returned from deployment and reintegrated. 4-3 ADA Battalion is set up and growing in size. 3-2 ADA Battalion is reaching its deployment half-way point. And, 5-5 ADA Battalion will soon prepare for its own redeployment. These are exciting times for the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade!

What is most important, though, is that we are not just stumbling ahead into the future as though we have a blindfold covering our eyes. We are not just dealing with issues as they pop up. No, we have a new Campaign Plan. We have a vision of what we as a unit want to look like. We have identified standards for every Soldier and Section’s performance. Dr. Martin Luther King’s famous words have become our own: “I have a dream that one day...” this is what we as a unit will look like.

We are committed to setting a new standard of effectively serving our nation in its great hour of need, at this moment in our own lifetime. Every one of us...Soldier, Civilian and Family Member...has an important part to play. We are in this together. We trust in the guidance of our God and our Commander to lead us through each new challenge that we meet...to protect our nation from those around the world who want to do it harm. Each of us is “a warrior and a member of a team”...called to “place the mission first and never accept defeat.”

It’s time to take the words of our Military training and of our God to heart, charging ahead together into a new era as the 31st ADA Brigade family--proud members of the Fort Sill Fires Center of Excellence team. “One...Two...Three...Go!”

— CH. (MAJ) Glenn R. Scheib

CSM Carr helps create young Soldiers' "proudest moment"

By Spc. Pelletier, Harmony — The Air Defense Artillery Regimental CSM, CSM Carr, made a trip to visit the deployed Soldiers of 3-2 Air Defense Artillery battalion earlier this month at two undisclosed locations in Southwest Asia. 3-2 ADA BN is currently deployed in two separate Areas of Responsibility's and CSM Carr made it his mission to visit both task forces in order to reach every single Soldier. His main purpose for the visits was to talk with the Soldiers about keeping their heads up during the deployment. "Stay positive" he said while sitting with the Soldiers of Bravo Battery, "America depends on you, so you have to stay positive". He walked through each location sites observing the conditions and recognizing the improvements that have been made since being on the ground. "It was cool that he cared about us enough to ask everyone what we needed and what would make our stay here a little more comfortable" SPC Adam Sprinkle, a 14T from Bravo Battery, said. Along with visiting the sites and spending time with the Soldiers, CSM Carr was a distinguished guest for 3-2 ADA's Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony in both AOR's. Eight Soldiers were inducted into the time-honored corp. of Noncommissioned Officers in one location and 12 in the other, but all Soldiers were lucky enough to receive a few words from a CSM who has been a part of that same corp. for 28 years. "This is a great organization" CSM Carr said in reference to the success of 3-2 ADA. Going on to offer some advice on being a NCO, he stated that being inducted into the corp. was one of his "proudest moments in life". As many eager, yet young NCO's looked up at CSM Carr while delivering his speech, he made a statement that stuck with all of them, "knowing the path and walking the path are sometimes two different things". Every Soldier in the room slowly shook their head as to agree with his honest statement. He went on to speak about the role of a Noncommissioned Officer and how the responsibility of an NCO is great. "It's about taking care of Soldiers and living the Army Values, not just knowing them". Every word that he spoke resonated in the minds of the young Soldiers in the audience but his final words are what left the lasting impression that few Soldiers will ever forget, "The most important part of being a Noncommissioned Officer is choosing to do the right things, all the time, even when no one else is around". CSM Cowan, the Battalion CSM for 3-2 ADA BN, stood proudly next to CSM Carr as 20 Soldiers crossed the time-honored line into the corp. of the Noncommissioned Officer. Although 3-2 ADA BN is separated by thousands of miles, at those moments, they were a family again, proud and supportive of each other for the hard work and dedication it took to get into the corps. The newly inducted Noncommissioned Officers recited the charge of the NCO and were warmly welcomed by CSM Carr and fellow NCO's in their battalion. CSM Carr departed the Soldiers of



3-2 ADA having left them with encouraging words and nothing but success to look forward to.



Tis the Season



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Welcome Home JTF 5-5 ADA Dragonslayers



Pioneer Park students experience "Range Day"

On January 19, 2011 Soldiers from Bravo Battery in 4-3 Air Defense Artillery showed fifth graders from Pioneer Park Elementary the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). The principal, Sally Greelee, asked 4-3 ADA BN to support her girl power day by taking the fifth grade boys on a field trip. Since Pioneer Park Elementary is part of our school partnership program, Bravo battery took charge of the situation and assigned 2nd LT Trotter as Officer in Charge and Staff Sgt. Weeks as Non Commissioned Officer in Charge. The thirty students were broken down into three groups for the day where they got to experience some authentic Army weapons training. In the first station, the students fired simulated weapons, M16, M249, M240B, at virtual targets in the EST. Next they went on a tour of the range with their teachers and instructors from Bravo battery to see how an Army range operates. Students were then taken to a warming tent and shown how to cook a Meal Ready to Eat (MRE), see authentic Army weapon systems, and see the latest in Air soft weapon technology with Master Sgt Moore. The fifth grade boys had a great time on their fieldtrip. They got to feel like they were shooting real weapons in the EST, cook an MRE, and feel like a Soldier. It was a great day to be in the Army and nice to see how something we consider typical training, kids think is an awesome time. Those students will not forget their time spent at Fort Sill for a long time. They left with 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade hats to go along with a good time.

